

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024701  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
CPR-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 FAA-00 EB-08 DOTE-00  
/067 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:BJR  
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WILLIAM M. WOESSNER  
IO/UNP:RHAGE

-----100684 311431Z /43

R 310214Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PDIP, GE

SUBJECT: GDR NOTE ON POUCH INCIDENT

REF: USUN 0239

1. GDR POLITICAL COUNSELOR SIEMENS DELIVERED NOTE  
JANUARY 25 PROTESTING JFK POUCH INCIDENT (REFTEL). HE WAS  
TOLD THAT WE REGRETTED INCIDENT, WOULD INVESTIGATE FACTS  
AND TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT INCIDENT WOULD NOT BE  
REPEATED. -

2. TEXT OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF NOTE READS AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN TEXT: ON JANUARY 19, 1978 AT ABOUT 8 P.M. THE  
DIPLOMATIC COURIERS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
KRAUSE AND RAMMACHER WENT TO GATE 12 OF J.F. KENNEDY AIRPORT  
NEW YORK TO TAKE OFF WITH THE KL 642- DURING THE SECURITY  
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CONTROL THE US OFFICIALS ON DUTY INSISTED ON BREAKING  
THE SEALS AND OPENING THE PARCELS CONTAINING DIPLOMATIC  
HAND MAIL, A PROCEDURE WHICH IS CONTRARY TO ALL INTER-  
NATIONAL PRACTICES AND CONTRARY TO THE PROTECTIVE REGULA-  
TIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR DIPLOMATIC COURIERS AND  
THE WRITTEN DIPLOMATIC MATERIAL CARRIED BY THEM. THE  
DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS WITH THE NECESSARY US VISAS, THE

COURIER LISTS AS WELL AS THE REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 27 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE IGNORED BY THE US OFFICIALS. AS THE DEMAND FOR OPENING SEALED DIPLOMATIC MAIL OF COURIERS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAD TO BE REJECTED AS UNLAWFUL PRACTICE, THE US-SECURITY OFFICIALS PREVENTED THE FURTHER PASSAGE OF THE COURIERS.

THE EMBASSY FEELS URGED TO PROTEST AGAINST THIS SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT OF ITS COMMUNICATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE ARBITRARY DISREGARD OF ARTICLE 27, SECTION 2 AND 3 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF APRIL 18, 1961. WE HOPE AND ANTICIPATE THAT THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS THAT SIMILAR ACTS WILL NOT OCCUR AGAIN. END TEXT

3. AIRPORT DIVISION OF FAA IS INVESTIGATING CASE. DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND TO NOTE UPON COMPLETION OF THAT INVESTIGATION. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY VIOLATIONS, DIPLOMATIC POUCHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE024701  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** VGRAY:BJR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780046-0159  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaabwn.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b6e8a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 USUN NEW YORK 239  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3724477  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR NOTE ON POUCH INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PDIP, GC, US  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK BERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b6e8a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014